



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 148

LCO No. 1406

01406_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF
WAIVER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF
SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-8 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit an application
4 for a federal waiver of any assistance program requirements, except
5 such application pertaining to routine operational issues, to the joint
6 standing [committee] committees of the General Assembly having
7 cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations
8 and the budgets of state agencies [and to the joint standing committee
9 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
10 human services] prior to the submission of such application to the
11 federal government. [Within] Not later than thirty days after the date
12 of their receipt of such application, the joint standing committees
13 [may] shall: (1) Hold a public hearing on the waiver application, and
14 (2) thereafter advise the commissioner of their approval, denial or
15 modifications, if any, of [his] the commissioner's application. If the

16 joint standing committees advise the commissioner of their denial of
17 the commissioner's application, the commissioner shall not submit the
18 application for a federal waiver to the federal government. If such
19 committees do not concur, the committee chairpersons shall appoint a
20 committee of conference which shall be comprised of three members
21 from each joint standing committee. At least one member appointed
22 from each joint standing committee shall be a member of the minority
23 party. The report of the committee of conference shall be made to each
24 joint standing committee, which shall vote to accept or reject the
25 report. The report of the committee of conference may not be
26 amended. If a joint standing committee rejects the report of the
27 committee of conference, such committee shall notify the
28 commissioner of the rejection and the commissioner's application shall
29 be deemed approved. If the joint standing committees accept the
30 report, the committee having cognizance of matters relating to
31 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies shall advise the
32 commissioner of their approval, denial or modifications, if any, of the
33 commissioner's application. If the joint standing committees do not so
34 advise the commissioner during the thirty-day period, the application
35 shall be deemed approved. Any application for a federal waiver
36 submitted by the commissioner, pursuant to this section, shall be in
37 accordance with the approval or modifications, if any, of the joint
38 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
39 matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets
40 of state agencies.

41 (b) If in developing the budget for the department for the next fiscal
42 year, the commissioner contemplates applying for a federal waiver,
43 [he] the commissioner shall notify the joint standing committee of the
44 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
45 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and the joint standing
46 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
47 relating to human services of the possibility of such application.

48 (c) Prior to submission of an application for a waiver from federal

49 law to the General Assembly under subsection (a) of this section, the
 50 Commissioner of Social Services shall publish a notice that the
 51 commissioner intends to seek such a waiver in the Connecticut Law
 52 Journal, along with a summary of the provisions of the waiver
 53 application and the manner in which individuals may submit
 54 comments. The commissioner shall allow fifteen days for written
 55 comments on the waiver application prior to submission of the
 56 application for a waiver to the General Assembly under subsection (a)
 57 of this section and shall include all written comments with the waiver
 58 application in the submission to the General Assembly.

59 (d) The commissioner shall include with any waiver application
 60 submitted to the federal government pursuant to this section: (1) Any
 61 written comments received pursuant to subsection (c) of this section;
 62 and (2) a complete transcript of the joint standing committee
 63 proceedings held pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, including
 64 any additional written comments submitted to the joint standing
 65 committees at such proceedings. The joint standing committees shall
 66 transmit any such materials to the commissioner for inclusion with any
 67 such waiver application.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2006	17b-8
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Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that any waiver application submitted by the Commissioner of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-8 of the general statutes is in accordance with any recommendations made by the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of the state agencies.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]